

NOTES AND COMMENTS

By JOSEPHINE K. HENRY.

From Columbus, Ohio, a special to the press says "The local Circuit Court today, Nov. 4th, held that church parsonages, priest's houses, and Bishop's palaces ARE subject to taxation."

And why indeed should they not be? This is a just decision, and all the courts in our country having jurisdiction in this matter should decide without delay that not only the houses of the clergy but all church property should be put on the tax list and made to pay its proportionate taxes. Our National and State Constitutions declare that church and State are separate, but as long as church property is exempt from taxation, we defy the Constitution and have a union of church and state. Why should a Bishop's palace be exempt and the wash-woman's or day laborer's hovel be burdened with enormous taxes? Why should million dollar churches be exempt and flouring mills, shoe factories and the humble homes of the poor have taxes piled upon them? The health, wealth and prosperity of the people depend on the work of the laborers, the crops, factories, etc., etc., men and women whose services of the church will be a woman angel. Yet here is a case of women and men breaking one of the ten commandments to carry on foreign mission work.

The men are supposed to be industrious seven days in the week, and we women suspend our devotions long enough to keep the hen attending promptly to business, and gathering the hen fruit, which both cases are contrary to scripture teaching, and all this is done to try and

"Save the heathen in his blindness Who bows down to wood and stone."

The idea might be suggested that perhaps the heathen at our doors need the attention of all the women and men who will enlist in the soul-saving business. "Eggs is high now" and the money raised by the industry of the hens, turned over to the masculine manipulators of church funds by the women, might do some good missionary in our slums, alleys, and negro huts. Money makes the missionary go to foreign lands, and he or she takes up the hopeless task of saving the heathen. The average woman is not a capitalist, and largely the majority have not even a hen to bring them in a little pocket money, but when the church comes to call on women to give sacrifices for their religion, the church will go out of business, and the heathen can go heading to destruction.

Here is how one man in the religious state of Indiana, "loves, honors and cherishes" his wife. The press prints the following:

WITH A BED SLAT

He Hit His Wife, and Doctors Say Her Child May Be Dead.

Wahash, Ind. July 29.—P. L. Freeman was to-day convicted of assault and battery and sentenced to serve eight months in jail. Last night he attacked his wife with a bed slat and beat her brutally. It is thought she may not recover, and physicians think her unborn child was killed. Should the woman die Freeman will be released on bail of \$1,000, she is in a precarious state to-night.

I wonder if this is one of the matches that was made in heaven. Of course it was, because the church says all marriages are divine sacraments and mysteries. Then the Catholic church says that all marriages should be indissoluble, even if a man beats his wife and unborn child to death with a bed slat. Hon. P. L. Freeman, perhaps, his name was Paul Luke, and he was living up to his Christian privileges. Paul, the saint, says "The husband is the head of the church." A woman who had such a head, would be better off without any head at all. Paul says too, that "wives are commanded to be under obedience" and this poor woman's obedience did not purify herself and unborn child under the ground. Cardinal Gibbons, who seems to know more about the duties of women, than any one except G. Cleveland, says that "it is the duty of all women to stay at home, minister to their husbands, and obey them." Mrs. Moore, the saint, says "Poor Mrs. Moore, I hope this will turn a bill for the taxation of church property should be introduced and championed by great and good Americans who realize the danger that threatens us and the safety of clinging fundamental principles. A religion that shuns its honest d.b.s and does not deal fair with the government, cannot or will not support itself, is not worthy of the protection or aid of the people or the government.

In every one of our state legislatures a bill for the taxation of church property should be introduced and championed by great and good Americans who realize the danger that threatens us and the safety of clinging fundamental principles. A religion that shuns its honest d.b.s and does not deal fair with the government, cannot or will not support itself, is not worthy of the protection or aid of the people or the government.

The following from the Louisville Post will explain itself:

NOVEL FOREIGN MISSIONS

Harrodsburg, Ky., Oct. 18.—Last

Sunday at the Bethel church, a novel subscription was taken up for the benefit of foreign missions. There were about 100 women present, and nearly all of them children raisers. The suggestion was made and adopted that the women give to foreign missions the proceeds from the sale of all eggs laid on the Sabbath.

There seems something very inconsistent about the adoption of this suggestion, and the teaching that we must "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy." Of course all who do this, and a whole book full of other things, are supposed to earn a dead cent a year in the New Jerusalem. The women of the Bethel church perhaps do not know that the Sabbath has no hint that we go to heaven, and the women's decision of the church there never was and there never will be a woman angel. Yet here is a case of women and men breaking one of the ten commandments to carry on foreign mission work.

The men are supposed to be industrious seven days in the week, and we women suspend our devotions long enough to keep the hen attending promptly to business, and gathering the hen fruit, which both cases are contrary to scripture teaching, and all this is done to try and

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last moment of his life by the Clergy who gave him his last hours and he is said to have exchanged the black cloak for a starry crown. Isn't it about time to stop the brutal butchery of women in the United States? An unfair election causes more protests from the clergy than the murder of thousands of wives every year in the United States. We have societies for the prevention of cruelty to children and animals is it not high time we had a society for the prevention of wife murder? Such societies are absolute necessities in our Christian civilization.

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

For some time I have been engaged writing a pamphlet on this question, the most vital one President Roosevelt says that the American people have to deal with. The President is right on this point. Marriage and Divorce is the most important question of our time, and on its proper solution depends the weal or woe of the American Republic. I have finished this pamphlet and it is now in the hands of my publisher, Mr. James E. Hughes of the Blue Grass Blade, at Lexington, Ky. He assures me that it will come from the press and be ready for mailing on December 10th, and I shall on that date begin filling the Blue Grass Blade with it. I am interested in treating the subject dealt with in the evolution of marriage or statistics on the question, but have dealt with Marriage and Divorce as it is right now day. Up to this time men have had much to say on the question from the pulpit and platform and through the press, and made all the law in church and State governing the system. Women have been wonderfully silent on the most vital question in life to them and they have been entirely tabooed by their mothers, fathers, and legatees. I view the question from a woman's stand point and have endeavored to throw a ray of light on the so-called sacred institution of marriage. I have endeavored to be fair and frank in facts, actual conditions and truths as they lie all about us. If I am in error on any point I will be glad to be shown wherein. Some of the truths may be honest, but they are truths never before told, but when the church comes to call on women to give sacrifices for their religion, the church will go out of business, and the heathen can go heading to destruction.

The idea might be suggested that

perhaps the heathen at our doors need the attention of all the women and men who will enlist in the soul-saving business. "Eggs is high now" and the money raised by the industry of the hens, turned over to the masculine manipulators of church funds by the women, might do some good missionary in our slums, alleys, and negro huts. Money makes the missionary go to foreign lands, and he or she takes up the hopeless task of saving the heathen. The average woman is not a capitalist, and largely the majority have not even a hen to bring them in a little pocket money, but when the church comes to call on women to give sacrifices for their religion, the church will go out of business, and the heathen can go heading to destruction.

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Ryan, Ind. Ind. Ter.—Please find enclosed \$1.00 for another year, as I cannot do without the Blade. In the debate between Wilkerson and Bro. Welch here, some time ago, it is said that Bro. Welch got the best of the argument all the way through. We think that Bro. Welch is the right man in the right place and that if we had more like him and fewer hypocrites everybody would be happier and the world better off. We are glad to note that your health is improving. Mr. W. R. Loyd, the greatest tattooed man in the world, is here and sends his sympathy and card to you—M. C. MARTIN.

Concord, N. H.—I was, for ten years, a church member. For ten years I

have been an Agnostic and expect to live and die such. I am battling, today, for the love of humanity and am happier than I was when I was all wrapped up in superstition. The only thing I regret is that I have not been taking the Blade for the last seven years. It is our duty to take all the Freethought literature we can and pay for it like men. I expect to take the Blade and pay for it from now on. I hope that all Freethinkers will help the Blade, and will not let out old lead friends. Mr. Moore is in bad health and hope that he may soon be better so that he may go on with his good work—J. R. CORRIHER

New York—My dear Colonel Moore.

—From a newspaper clipping just now received, I was pained to learn of your ill health, and my heart at once responded with sincere solicitude. You

have always loved a good man, and

were good. With your methods and treatment, I have not always agreed,

but always when you have done or written I have recognized a man who rebukes sham and hypocrisy, and to encourage men to strive to measure up to the standard of Him

who blessed the modern world with the Golden Rule. With sincere affection, yours very truly—R. H. FITZ-HUGH.

Naples, N. Y.—I am very sorry to hear you are sick, but infirmities must come with old age, and I congratulate you upon so long a life of good health, intellectual vigor and activity. It seems to me that the usefulness of the Blade will be much increased by its adopting the policy of teaching to be good and practicing charity instead of indulging in vituperation.

But may it not be, whether ways may be needed and helpful in the promotion of truth and in the well-being of humanity—some people fitted for one way and some for the other and, perhaps, your vigorous denunciations have been needed, and more may be, and it may have done more good that milder language could have done.

Perhaps an editorial in the Democrat and Herald may apply to you as well as it did to William Lloyd Garrison, of whom it says "he never commanded the unreserved admiration of his own people, even in the heart of the anti-slavery conflict. It is possible he deserved the contempt of the constitution, had something to do with it, yet he was unquestionably one of the mightiest of forces that led to the emancipation of the slaves in this country."—THOMAS J. POWELL.

East Lynne, Mo.—Ever since I read of your serious illness I wanted to write to you to know that it grieves me much. One great desire has been to shake hands with you, and, somehow, I hope to. Dear Mr. Moore, I am only one of the many that are deeply concerned about you as the many testimonial show. You can illy be spared. We want you with us. We want the good old Blade. We are not far from the same age, my advent on this sphere being in 1837. Since being a reader of the Blade, I have thought how much I would enjoy the acquaintance of your family. With warm regards to Mrs. Moore, hoping this will find you well on the way to recovery, and anxiously for the Blade.—EMILY C. JONES.

Hartford City, Ind., Nov. 13, 1895.

Enclosed find order for subscription and a copy of Dr. Wilson's book. I am glad to see by the Blade that Brother Moore is feeling better. He is a man that I have longed to meet.

I have heard my friends, the late Wm. Carroll Bowles and Miller say many good things of him. I am glad to do long to that family and sign myself

JOHN C. MOORE.

Granford, Ill., Nov. 19, 1895.

Blue Grass Blade, Lexington, Ky.: Mr. Hughes, enclosed you will find post office money order for one dollar, for J. B. Wilson's Rome Book, as I agreed to subscribe for it heretofore. I do hope there will be 10,000 copies sold, so that Brother Wilson desires, to be made the peer of Freethought, taking our lamented R. G. Ingersoll's place, as he is really your next Bob Ingersoll, for whom I had my flag on poles at half mast for five days, notwithstanding

the criticism, and as I

would rather see one of my children die than him, for the good he has done for humanity in exposing the delusion of our sky pilots. Hoping that Mr. C. Moore will recover soon and wishing you success and a long and happy life, I remain yours truly,

A. J. KRAFT.

Winterst, In., Nov. 2, 1905.

Mrs. C. G. Moore and Wife:

I read with sorrow and regret of

the illness of Brother Moore. My love

and sympathy go out to Sister Moore



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